

Wholeness, Health and Healing

**2) Do We Receive Healing By
Taking Communion?**

Some hold 'absolute' views regarding healing. E.g.:

- ✓ **Cessationalism - All miraculous healing ended with Jesus and the apostles. At certain periods, there were healings, e.g. Moses, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and the apostles. Now, healing and other charismatic gifts have ceased. This is not stated anywhere in the Bible. In fact, there are verses to the contrary. The gift of healing is given to the Church. God is Jehovah Rapha. He never changes**
- ✓ **'By His stripes we are healed'. When it doesn't manifest: 1) Lack of faith. 'Satan can steal it through negative confession'; 2) Denial. Those who preach this do get sick**

What does the Bible teach?

- ✓ **No one got healed by having a correct doctrine of healing, but through faith in Jesus**
- ✓ **The Lord is for the body and the body is for the Lord**
- ✓ **Jesus healed by grace, without any prerequisite for salvation**
- ✓ **Sometimes He heals instantaneously. *Iaomai*. E.g. in evangelism. Sometimes healing is gradual, (*therapeia*), i.e. healing is a process**
- ✓ **So, what about, '*By His stripes we are healed*' (Isa.53:5). Healed in what sense?**

Isaiah is referring to *spiritual* healing

- ✓ **Jesus did not suffer and die to heal our bodies. He healed many before the cross. Many were healed in OT times**
- ✓ **The Bible often refers to sin as a sickness needing healing. Examples: *'I said, "LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You"' (Psa.41:4). 'When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"' (Mk.2:17)***

'Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger, the Holy One of Israel. They have turned away backward. Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment'

(Isa.1:4-6)

The context is clear that the sickness is referring to sins

'Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all'
(Isa.53:4-6)

In v.5 the words 'wounded' and 'crushed' are strong terms denoting injuries inflicted by punishment

'Wounded' means pierced through

'Bruised' means to be beaten with blows

Jesus suffered stripes or blows as punishment for sin not sickness

'...it shall be, if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows. Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight'
(Deut.25:2-3)

See the remainder of this passage:

'For the transgressions of My people He was stricken... When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days...For He shall bear their iniquities... Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors'
(Isa.53:8,10-12)

This verse was quoted by Peter. But note the context

'...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls'

(1 Pet.2:24-25)

Neither Isaiah nor Peter intended physical healing as the result in these references to Christ's sufferings

The true gospel is: 'Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures' (1 Cor.15:3)

Does God heal the sick today?

Yes. But not on the basis of the atonement

Do we receive healing through communion?

The bread is a reference to us, the body of Christ:

'The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread'

(1 Cor.10:16-17)

The communion was a meal to celebrate our unity in Christ, but it manifested the opposite

****'For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you' (1 Cor.11:19)***

***'Factions' (*haireisis*) translated 'sects' in Acts 24:14. The word does not refer to error in doctrine but that which promotes division or contention. (There are 45,000 denominations)**

***Divisions can occur through a party spirit, or a long list of demands which must be met in order for us to be or remain in fellowship with others. Compare the Apostle's Creed**

***The only thing that unites us is the finished work of Christ. But there are many ways to divide**

***There will inevitably be offences which could lead to separation or division. See Matt.18:7**

***God allows this to provide occasions for us to choose to walk in the Spirit and not according to the flesh**

***When we separate from others be it to form a clique or over personal issues, we judge them unworthy of our fellowship. Yet Christ has qualified us all and has placed us all in one body**

***His body is a unity and should not be fragmented or subjected to amputation. *'Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them'* (Rom.16:17)**

- ✓ **There were factions in the church at Corinth based on leaders (chap.1) and based on class (chap.11). The Corinthians were bringing their own bread and wine to the meal instead of eating from one loaf and drinking from one cup**
- ✓ **The rich were over indulging and the poor were eating sparingly. They would even eat before the poor arrived. The rich went away full and the poor went away hungry**
- ✓ **The very purpose of the meal was lost. *'What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you'* (1 Cor.11:22)**

***Paul rebuked Peter for his withdrawal from the Gentile believers of table fellowship**

***To him this was major because it affected the truth of the gospel, 'But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"' (Gal.2:14). It was a denial of the truth of our oneness in Christ**

***In Matt.18:5-35 we see the key to 'gaining a brother' through forgiveness is to know how much we have been forgiven – everything! These two things are brought together at communion. In this way communion can be a place of healing**

'Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed'
(James 5:14-16)